

Contributions

PEACE

C. F. YODER

Peace, gentle goddess from the heavenly world
Each happy heart today doth greet thee.
All hail thy banner! May its foes be hurled
Careering backward while the friends who meet thee
Eternally bear on its glorious folds unfurled.

PUBLIC OPINION

G. A. RUFF

The necessity of a just public opinion is evident to all. At its bar the delinquent should be rebuked, but in those mild tones of charity which enliven hope, prompt reform, and which do not discourage and provoke recklessness, nor originate scandal. A healthy public has for its legitimate province a most delicate, yet important task. The gossip of the garrulous and self-righteous often receives this name, but how widely does it vary in its office! It aggravates and inflames rather than corrects the tendencies of the erring. For instance, a young man takes a misstep. In how many instances does an unchristian zeal ruin where a judicious kindness might remedy. If he is one whose aspirations are confined to the locality where scandalous report has gained currency and is kept alive by vindictiveness of a gossiping, mischief-making community (often the case), he concludes from the merciless rigor with which his name and his character aspersed, that he is already ruined that his aspirations (all that makes him manly) must be abandoned, that in fact, he is deserted by the good will of his fellows. At least those whose influence attract him to virtue, and that he can be no worse. In nine cases out of ten he accepts the embrace which is offered by those whose influence is for evil, and seeks to deserve the name which an unjust public opinion has bestowed. How many are thus scourged into vice by the scorpion tongue of slander! How mercilessly the self-righteous pursue! And how scornfully do they pull aside their skirts when they have fully accomplished their hellish work!! "It must be cruel even to be kind." Yes but the cruelty born of kindness does not torture the victim to despair and then desert him (because forsooth, the inventions of cruelty are exhausted!), but rebukes thru love, chastises with tenderness, and punishes without vengeance. "To the measure that you are willing to be kind to yourself be ye also kind to others. Thousands are ruined thus. In one way such may be reclaimed, and in one way they may be made indifferent to this attraction downward: first, thru an enlightened and charitable public opinion; and secondly, by instilling aspirations into the minds of the young which elevate above local prejudice which seek the broad theater of the world. By no

means let the young be too sensitive to evil report, but solace themselves by giving it the blush in the beauty of a virtuous life; be not overpowered by the hypocritical self-righteous, but conquer them. To the uncharitable I would say, study thyself, look well for the mote in thine own eye, that thou mayst see clearly to pluck the one from thy brother's eye."

The eyes and ears of the slanderer and evil doer are ever on the lookout. A young man or woman cannot deviate one iota from the strict path of rectitude, but like a sluth hound they are scented afar off by the busybody, and the finger of scorn pointed at them and their presence is odious to those self-righteous. This is certainly contrary from the teachings by divine powers. Take the parable of Jesus as a model of leniency and we are thereby constrained to believe that there is redemption beyond for such. For when a lewd woman was persecuted by a host of these evil doers and demanded chastisement, even so far as to urge Christ to have her put to death. But He rebuked them by saying, "If there is one present without sin let him cast the first stone." It is needless to say none were thrown. Oh, let us all, especially those who confessed Christ conform strictly and very close to a just and honorable public opinion.

North Georgetown, Ohio.

SELF-DENIAL

A. J. HIXSON

"If any man will come after me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

My mind was aroused on reading Brother J. L. Kimmel's earnest appeal to the churches of Ohio in behalf of the State Conference.

The number of preachers idle or without charges was the particular feature enlisting my attention. Why are so many idle? Is it that "no man hath hired us?" "The fields are ripe unto harvest." Laborers are needed. The command "Go ye forth is to all." "Why stand ye idle waiting?" Opportunities are not wanting. Men are dying all around us for the bread of life. Is it lack of willingness on the part of those idle preachers? Has God called them? If so he has a field for them. If they will only cast about they can find one. Like a Paul, go to work and open up a field. When the church by the Holy Ghost, fasting and prayer at Antioch decided to thin out the workers in the church, "Laid hands upon them and sent them away," and the word of the Lord was published thru out all the region." God's blessing is promised to the faithful worker; the consecrated, self-denying worker. We fear that because iniquity doth abound the love of many is growing cold, unmindful that it

is to the faithful to the end that the crown is promised. If the territory of Ohio is too small, come over into Kanemorado" and help us. There is room and service for several of the "Paul and Barnabas kind." They would be gladly received. Fields commensurate with their talents would open up for them, and the benedictions of a grateful people would rest upon them. Come over and help us. Heed not the selfish entreaties of the Yakima Colony nor the Athens of Alabama, but to the broad prairies of the west find your way. Grow up with it, make to yourselves a place, a field of labor by earnest zeal and consecrated self-denial, and those to live after you will call you blessed.

IT PASSETH KNOWLEDGE

C. H. BALSBAUGH

Beloved Sister Stump and family:—Wonderful, wonderful is the love of God. It is truly beyond the comprehension of men and angels. Eph. 3:19. I Pet. 1:12. We are living in a world of sin, compassed with infirmities, subject to death, and yet by grace we are the children of God, filled with his Holy Spirit, our hearts pulsating with his love, and our souls sustained and animated by the great hope of seeing Him as he is, and being like him, beholding and sharing his glory, and enjoying all his wealth and magnificence and dignity thru all eternity! Oh, it is wonderful, wonderful! I John 3:2. Rom. 5:5. Heb. 6:18, 19. Rom. 8:17. Rev. 21:7. And all the beatitude is for *you* and your *children*; and for *me*, poor, unworthy *me*. O, the breadth, and length, and depth, and height. Eph. 3:18. But the cross, the awful cross intervenes. This is what keeps so many from the crown. But God has no other way for His Son, and cannot receive us on easier terms. The cost is beyond finite computation, but the issue is an adequate compensation.

No matter what your trials and burdens and sorrows are, they all contribute to the glorious consummation. Rom. 8:28. II Cor. 4:17. Our tears all go into the bottle of infinite, omnipotent love. Psa. 56:8. We will find them again in our crown of glory transmitted into pearls of holiness. Gloriously will Matt. 5:4 and Luke 6:21, be fulfilled.

The laughter of eternity will million-fold overbalance the the weeping of time. Love, love, divine, eternal love, is the fountain and secret of it all. John 3:16. Rom. 8:32. I John 3:1. Truly may Paul say, "Our light afflictions, which are but for a moment." This is what upheld the Prince of Sufferers in his supreme agony; and it is abundantly sufficient for us. Heb. 12:2. O, that "joy set before him!" Deity alone can measure the incomprehensible. And then to think that it is all to be ours. John 15: